

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating reports from financial data in a financial software application, the method comprising:  
receiving a selection of a report template to be used to create a report, wherein the report template including includes query parameters, layout information, and content field information;  
receiving financial data from a data source; and  
assessing whether the financial data is compatible with the report template by examining a data file type and contents of the financial data to ensure consistency with the selection of the report template and the content field information; and  
applying the received layout information and received content field information to the received financial data to generate a report, the report having a layout specified by the layout information, and including content associated with the content field information.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising outputting the report to an output device.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the output device is a computer monitor.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the output device is a printer.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the output device is storage medium.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data source is a storage device.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the selected report template is selected using the Internet.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising storing the selected report template locally.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected report template includes version information, and prior to applying the received layout information and received content field information to the received financial data, the template version is compared to a version associated with the received financial data to determine whether the financial data is compatible with the selected template.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

responsive to a determination that the financial data is compatible with the selected report template, generating the report.

11. –14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system for creating reports and a report template from financial data in a financial software application, the system comprising:

a template data store for storing a report template[[s]], the report template[[s]] including layout information and content field information used to generate a report;

a user data store for storing user financial data; and

a report engine, communicatively coupled to the template data store and the user data store, for receiving template data from the template data store and user data from the user data store, generating reports by applying the template data to the user data, and generating the report template by extracting query parameters, content fields, and report layout information from reports and exporting the report template.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for creating reports and a report template from financial data in a financial software application, the computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and containing instructions configured to cause a processor to execute the steps of:

receiving a selection of a report template to be used to create a report, wherein the report template including includes query parameters, layout information, and content field information;

receiving financial data from a data source; **and**

assessing whether the financial data is compatible with the report template by examining a data file type and contents of the financial data to ensure consistency with the selection of the report template and the content field information;  
applying the received layout information and received content field information to the received financial data to generate a report, the report having a layout specified by the layout information, and including content associated with the content field information; and  
generating the report template by extracting the query parameters, content fields, and report layout information from reports.

17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (New) A method for creating and exporting a financial report template, the method comprising:
  - selecting a report, wherein query parameters, content fields, and layout information are pre-defined;
  - generating a report structure by extracting the predefined query parameters, content fields, and report layout information from the report;
  - exporting the financial report template wherein the financial data populating the report is not associated with the financial report template; and
  - storing the financial report template and the report structure.
21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the report is generated by specifying which of the pre-defined query parameters, content fields, and layout information are used.
22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the report is generated by creating the query parameters, content fields, and layout information.
23. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the report is generated by extracting the query parameters, content fields, and layout information from a pre-existing report.

24. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the content fields of the financial report template are analyzed to assess whether exporting the template or certain aspects of the template is permissible.
25. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising:  
analyzing user authorization to assess whether exporting the financial report template is permissible.
26. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising:  
analyzing user authorization to assess whether generating the report is permissible.
27. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the financial report template is exported as a part of a group of templates.